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2018-19**

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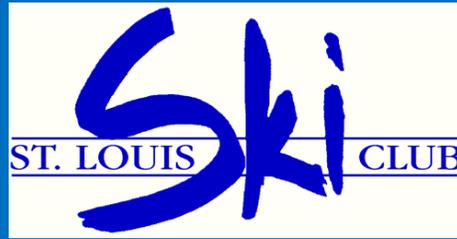
**St. Louis Ski Club**

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**Sitzmarker  
May 2018**

**President's Message**



Spring greetings to members and friends of the St Louis Ski Club! Another great ski year is over, check out the photos on our website to see all the fun things our members were doing on three trips this past season. We had three trips scheduled for 2018: Snowmass (the annual FSA trip), Copper Mountain and Banff. All were profitable and there no major injuries on the slopes this year! We are well underway with planning for next year's trips, be sure to attend the June Q 'n Suds to learn all the exciting destinations for next ski season. Our trip 2017-18 Trip Director Tracey Leverenz reinstated the trip survey in 2018 and we listened to you in selecting the upcoming trips. I think you will be excited by the trips we have planned.

Just a reminder your membership dues are past due (May 1 is the renewal date). If you have not sent those in yet hurry. If you are not renewed/haven't joined by the 15th you will not be able to sign up for trips until the sign-up night in August. Members in good standing have sign up priority until the sign-up night. Information on club policies is available on our website.

It is Spring at last. The dogwoods next to my deck (and just outside my office window) are in full glorious bloom. This morning we went on our re-scheduled spring hike in Rockwood Reservation. It was a perfect day for a hike and thanks to Lola Buyce, our leader, a great time. Many of you know Lola, she is a long-time member who though she no longer skis at high altitude still comes out to our activities and volunteers to lead/host events. Thank You Lola!

Our St Louis Ski Club offers members more than just skiing. Our annual Holiday Party, Chili cook off and Dog 'n Suds provide great opportunities socialize and catch up. We also have monthly happy hours, and **(Continued on page 7)**

**Join us for "Q 'n Suds" Friday, June 1st at Tilles Park**

Come one, come all! Formerly known as our Dog 'n Suds —but it's so much more than that now! We will be serving Bandanas BBQ —along with the usual hot dogs. And of course beer! And soda. And there will be lawn games. Hence the new name: Q 'n Suds. To round out this delicious meal, please bring a side or dessert to share.

(Note: in lieu of providing side dishes, the club has decided to step up their game on BBQ meat options, so we are relying on

you to bring the sides this year) No charge for current paid members; \$5 for all others. Guests are welcome. Paid members in attendance may enter a drawing for an Alpine Shop gift card. No worries if you are not a paid member —we will have membership applications available at the Q. Social hour begins at 5:00 pm, with dinner being served at 6:00 pm. Look for the large blue and white St Louis Ski Club banner in Tilles Park at the Gloria Rogers Pavilion -rain or

shine. Please RSVP with what side you will be bringing. Either text or call Bev at (618) 972-3412 or reply on our Meetup Page. If using Meetup to RSVP, you may add what you will be bringing under comments.

Where: Tilles Park (Gloria Rogers Pavilion), 9551 Litzinger Road, St. Louis, MO 63124

Cost: Free for current paid members; \$5 for all others.

Mark Braun joined the St. Louis Ski Club in 2006 with a trip to Jackson Hole and has generally been on one or two trips a year since then. As with many of our members, the lure of pristine snow and sweeping mountain vistas holds great allure for him but his fascination with this natural beauty goes beyond skiing the terrain. Mark has had an interest in photography since junior high school and usually takes a day or two off from skiing to shoot pictures. This can include snowmobiling and snowshoeing through some of our great national parks when our trips take him in that direction.

But Mark does not limit his photography skills to ski trips. He has been an avid photographer since his father gave him his first Canon SLR for Christmas in seventh-grade and he kept up his interest through various projects in high school and college. His work responsibilities forced him to set the camera aside for many

## *Ski Club Member Feature:* **Mark Braun**

years, but friends eventually coaxed him back into the area and he developed a new interest in nature photography. He eventually found himself traveling west to document the beauty of the Rockies.

Mark retired from Otis Elevator in 2013 after almost 30 years and continues to work as a consultant in the elevator industry. It doesn't sound as though retirement has slowed him down at all though. In addition to his ski trips and photographic endeavors, he is a member of the St. Louis Camera Club where he has been a past board member and a past chair and co-chair of the club's annual photograph seminar. He is also a mem-

ber of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers (MONEP), the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and the Missouri Mycological Society. This last, for those not familiar with the term, is an organization dedicated to promoting awareness of "everything fungi": studying the characteristics and classifications of mushroom species, both edible and non-edible.

Given Mark's passion for photography, it is no surprise that he would take an interest in the relocation of the International Photography Hall of Fame to St. Louis. This museum was established in Santa Barbara California in 1977 by the Photographic Arts and Sciences Foundation (PASF) to honor contributors to the field

of photography and to preserve access to historic photographs and cameras. It moved to Oklahoma City in 1983 and after, a major capital campaign, opened its doors in a major new facility in St. Louis in 2013. Mark served on a committee that helped the museum transition to its new home and continues to be a donor and a member of the nominations committee that makes recommendations for inductions into the Hall of Fame. Mark even held his retirement party at the Hall of Fame, which allowed him the chance, however briefly, to have his own photographs displayed there.

Many skiers in our club no doubt find a sense of solace and tranquility in experiencing nature on the ski slopes. Mark seems to find a similar sense of serenity in his photographic endeavors. In his own words:

I find a great deal of comfort even therapeutic relaxation in the activity of taking photographs. The solitude and peaceful silence I experience when photographing nature allows me to move forward though life with a positive outlook.

Mark sets an example that many in the club would do well to follow. The most rewarding pastimes and hobbies are no doubt those that allow us to shine a positive light on ourselves and our environments. This is something we should all strive for on the ski slopes and beyond.



## *Copper Mountain Trip Article*

Over 30 St. Louis Ski Club members joined together for a great adventure at Copper Mountain Ski Resort February 19th-24th. The bus ride was comfortable and made essential stops for groceries and beverages outside of Denver. Once we arrived and settled into our condos, the resort hosted a welcome party. First chance to meet up with Carole Stevenson, Ed Goedde, Joan Scholz, Ken Kensinger, Mary Sullivan, Doug Bender, and Dan Rath who made their own travel arrangements. A pizza buffet was provided, with salad, drinks and dessert. Two Mountain Hosts provided us with information about skiing the mountain, dining options and entertainment.

We arrived on President's Day as everyone from the holiday weekend was leaving the resort. This provided us with a feeling we had the mountain all to ourselves. No lift lines! Conditions were great and the mountain provided a variety of terrains for each level of skier. Accessing the lifts was a short walk out of our condo. Kathleen Blosser and Sue Adams enjoyed several long moderate blue runs. Their roommate Denise Buehrer had traveled all the way to Colorado with a broken foot (this happened the day before departure).

On Wednesday Tom Coscia hosted the club party at the Incline Bar. Mary Robert, Dave Hawley, Christine Kentner, Betty Hillig, Nancy Engel, Scott Kaelin and Alan Fiddleman were able to



select from a variety of dinners offered. The owner of the restaurant was a gracious host and service was stellar.

Thursday night Bev Doolin, Lou Boyer, Faye Doerhoff, Rebecca Pender, Pat Pender, Frank Atkinson, Travis Cly-

burn, Mitch Tafra, Rob Sidler and several others met up at Jacks for happy hour. The band Lefty Lucy provided great music. Everyone enjoyed dancing, cocktails, and fun times.

The last night Tom arranged a

dinner at JJs Rocky Mountain Tavern. Mary and Bob Plumlee, Linda Strunk, Joe Dann, Randy Helms, and Rick Alexander enjoyed catching up with everyone. Great ending to an awesome week of skiing.



# Copper Mtn Pics



# Banff Trip Article

By Sue Wild

Our trip to Banff was a great one! We left on March 17, and returned March 24, so the weather was much nicer and warmer going that time of year. We only had 20 skiers go, but the smaller group made it even a little more fun. We missed people who couldn't go, like Marty Trbovich and Rich Alexander.

## Ski Areas

There were 3 different ski areas – Lake Louise, Sunshine, and Norquay. The group would split up between the Lake Louise and Sunshine primarily, but Sue and Randy found Norquay to be a smaller area but with no crowd! Sue was very humbled, and Randy very embarrassed, as she found herself racing a 6-year-old down a catwalk. The following day, Norm Pratt, Ruth Payne, and Carlene Cox tried Norquay, but they were misled that the “big girl” lift only went to black runs. Not sure where Bob and Chris Schneider skied, but the great skiers they were, I'm sure it was a lot more ambitious than what others could do! Tracy Leverenz and Jan Beinecke were seen to go blasting by (just kidding), Sue, Mary, and Linda at Lake Louise.

The first day a group comprised of Mary Bubash, John Wood, Randy Helms, Linda Strunk, and Sue Wild going down a supposed “green” run at Sunshine (no sun!). But due to the powder, cloudy environment, and no depth perception, Sue turned “green” on the “green” and Linda had a hard time making it down (ski patrol ended up transporting her.) John Wood proclaimed he would never ski again! The interesting part is when Sue got sick (literally) on



the slope, Mary was identifying what Sue had for breakfast (that's the nurse in Mary!). But things turned around, and we all vowed we were still great skiers (right, John?)

Lake Louise was the most popular ski area. The more advanced skiers like Bev Doolin, Frank Atkinson and Del Briscuso discovered the back side of the mountain was a great place for skiing. Based on their report, another group tried it, but Mary got a little ambitious and took off one way and her group went down a blue. Mary ended up on a black, and wiped out a couple times, and didn't find her group until she got to the lodge.

Mark Braun unfortunately was sick when we left St. Louis, but he managed to recover and join us on Tuesday with his rental car. Glad you could join us, Mark!

Ice Walking at Johnston Canyon

I think the highlight of the

trip for most of us was the 4-mile ice hiking we did at Johnston Canyon. Randy joined at the last minute, but he managed to make it precariously in his sneakers. The rest of us had ice cleats to help us on the hike. (Thanks, Tracy, for the heads' up on buying ice cleats!) We went to the Lower Falls, and then forward to the Upper Falls. One really cool moment was when we saw 2 climbers going up the side of an ice face. One not-cool moment was when Tracey, followed by Sue, slipped on a muddy area and ended up on their keesters. Gale Rahmoeller was able to get a private, group tour on the hike.

After the hike, the group of 12, driven by Mark and Del (thanks!) stopped for “snacks” then took a beautiful drive down Icefields Parkway, stopping for photo shoots of the Canadian Rockies. Then Mark Braun took us on another .5 mile hike up to an overlook area for more beautiful picture-taking!

After that, we went to the

Fairmont Hotel at Lake Louise. Some of the group walked out on the frozen lake, but we were all able to enjoy a fantastic lunch at the hotel looking through the beautiful, arched windows at Lake Louise. A perfect afternoon!

## Great Restaurants

Banff is a beautiful town with plenty of great restaurants. One night a big group went to Bison Restaurant, which looked like a Hell's Kitchen restaurant, as we could see the chefs preparing and cooking the food. It was great food, but kind of pricey. Norm couldn't identify what he was eating. Randy asked if bread was served with dinner, so Sue took it upon herself to order a basket of bread. Yes – they charged \$8 for it. And nobody would eat it, so our accountant Carlene Cox sat and did a price breakdown on the cost of the bread for Sue. The more she ate, the cheaper the bread got (thanks, Carlene!).

The club party was held at Old Spaghetti Factory. A huge thank you to Randy for arranging that, as everyone showed up and very much enjoyed the dinner! Then a group of John, Mark, Randy, Sue, and Judee went to a nice wine bar and enjoyed a great bottle of wine paid for by John.

Randy also arranged a happy hour the last night at the Rose & Crown sports bar. It was good, but the restaurant was overwhelmed by

**(Continued on Page 7)**

# Banff Pics



## President's Message: continued from page 1

scattered throughout the year hikes, bike rides, picnics, float trips. Most of these are offered free of charge to everyone, dues paying member or not, we invite everyone to join us. If you have a favorite activity consider organizing an event, the club Vice President will make sure it is posted on the website, Meetup, and Facebook.

On to club business. Our club elections were held last month and once again there was only one candidate for each position. Our officers for the 2018/19

year are: Bev Doolin, Vice President (three years on the board); Dan McGurk, Communications (new to the Board; Tom Coscia, Trip Director (over 10 years on the board); Joe Bauer, President (5 years on the board). Like all organizations we need to renew and update our board periodically.

Please go to our website and read up on the board positions and what tasks are required. Consider, can you

perform the tasks required or do you have ideas for improving the club? If so please consider running next year for one of the positions on the board. The club needs you.

Please read the rest of this edition of the Sitz for more information on upcoming activities and events. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Q 'n Suds on June 1st and especially want to see who contributes the most popular side dish or dessert!

## Banff Trip Article: continued from page 5

how many people we had in our group. But still a good time had by all. A group also enjoyed dinner at a Thai Restaurant after meandering around town to the "correct" Thai restaurant!

### Lodging

The hotel Ptarmigan was great lodging for everyone. A complimentary breakfast was served every morning, which included an omelet bar. They had an indoor hot tub frequented nightly by several members (and John with his wine!). The staff was very courteous, and a dog-lover delight for some of us as the one hostess would bring her dog, Wyatt, in with her. (Notice we remember the dog's name, but not the hostess!)

St. Louis Ski and Snore Club

As we all get older, there were

more comments about the "snorers" on the trip. Alex came to the rescue (at the end of the trip) with his SnoreRX, which he said really helps him sleep better and not snore! Pat Pender perked up when she heard this on the bus ride home. Since the trip, it's rumored that the stock in SnoreRX has gone up! But seriously, a recommendation has been made to provide more economical single rooms on trips going forward.

Enquiring Minds Want to Know

Just a few closing questions:

Is it true Karen Goessling hired a limo and attended a hockey game at Calgary? (she has a puck to prove it!

Can non-skiers enjoy themselves on a ski trip! YES! Judee Island joined us, a non-skier, but pho-

tographer extraordinaire, and joined the group for breakfast, dinner, hot springs, hot tub, and curling with Bev!

How did Randy manage to forget his skis at the airport when we arrived?

Is it true everyone had a great time on the trip?

### Trip Captain Extraordinaire!

Speaking on behalf of everyone on the trip, a HUGE thank you to our Trip Captain Extraordinaire, Randy, for making it a very fun, hassle-free trip! Randy was very accommodating, and made sure everyone was having fun, even arranging the ad hoc happy hour for us. Thanks, Randy, you're the best!



P. O. Box 712  
St. Charles, MO 63302-0712

## **Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Please RSVP on our Meetup page <http://www.meetup.com/St-Louis-Ski-Club/>  
or email [activities@stlouisskiclub.com](mailto:activities@stlouisskiclub.com)

Go to [stlouisskiclub.com](http://stlouisskiclub.com) for the latest updates!

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
<b>Friday June 1, 2018 5:00 pm Dinner served at 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Q 'n Suds  Check out the front page for more info.</b>	<b>Tilles Park Gloria Rogers Pavilion 9551 Litzinger Road St. Louis, MO 63124</b>